

DISPOSITION FORM

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25-5823

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FILE NO.

MI OPS 69

SUBJECT

POW Returned from USSR

TO

FROM

DATE

COMMENT NO. 1

Assistant Chief of Staff, G2
United States Army, Europe
APO 403, United States Army
ATTN: Capt Livaditis

Commanding Officer
532d Mil Intel Bn
APO 46, US Army

12 Dec 55

1. On 21 November 1955, returned POW Peter Von RUELING was screened at Camp Piding, Bad Reichenhall, Germany. Von RUELING furnished information on the following three persons whom he met while in SOVIET POW camps:

a. ANDERSON, John: In 1951 SOURCE met a John Anderson, allegedly an American citizen, at Camp Tayshet, USSR, where they worked in the same group. Anderson was about 39 years old, about 6' 1/2" tall, of slender build, spoke fluent German and is believed to have been born in Germany. He worked at the camp as an electrician. Anderson told SOURCE that he had been stationed in Berlin in 1946/at which time he became drunk one night and went with a female companion to the Soviet sector of Berlin. Here he was taken prisoner and subsequently sentenced to 25 years. In a conversation with Anderson, SOURCE heard him use the expression "we flyers" once while talking about a method of electrical construction, which led SOURCE to believe that Anderson may have been with the Air Corps. Anderson once told SOURCE that he had been a Captain with the US Army in Berlin. SOURCE again heard about Anderson in 1953 from a fellow prisoner who had worked with Anderson in the Tayshet camp. This man stated that the American was still in the camp and was working in a repair shop. Anderson left SOURCE with a good impression. He did not speak with any of the Soviets, was quiet and associated only with prisoners other than Russian.

b. WILMERS, Robert Bobby: From May 1955 to Oct 1955, SOURCE lived in the prison at ~~Yagolnir~~, USSR with a 34 year old, 5' 7", light blond, stocky individual who called himself Robert Bobby Wilmers, allegedly a British citizen, and who implied that he came from British aristocracy. Wilmers told SOURCE that he was a British intelligence officer with the rank of 1st Lt, and that he had been captured in 1949 in an Austrian village near the Yugoslavian border (British Zone). He said that he was overcome by 3 men in civilian clothes, blind folded, and taken in an automobile to the Soviets. He stated that he had been working with a spy net which operated in Yugoslavia. Wilmers, who had been stationed somewhere near Graz, Austria, was sentenced to 25 years. He stated to SOURCE that this sentence was later reduced by a Moscow court to 10 years. Wilmers expected to be released in September 1955. SOURCE stated that Wilmers was moved around in the prison and placed in different cells with other prisoners, and was generally known throughout the camp as a Soviet informer. In Oct 1955, the prison was reorganized at which time the Russian prisoners were separated from prisoners of other nationalities. During this reorganization Wilmers disappeared and was not seen again by SOURCE.

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c. ROSE, Fny: ROSE, who was approximately 36 years old, told SOURCE that in 1939 he immigrated from Vienna to England where he became a British citizen. Rose was of Austrian extraction and of Jewish faith. He served with the British army during WW II as an intelligence officer. After 1945, he was stationed in Vienna where his relatives lived. While here he allegedly applied for his Austrian citizenship. At the time of his arrest in 1951, he was wearing the uniform of a British officer, and claimed that he was a member of the British Army. SOURCE did not entirely believe Rose. Rose was treated as an Austrian by the Soviets, and was released to Austria on 16 November 1955. He had been sentenced to 25 years for alleged espionage activities.

2. Forwarded for any action deemed appropriate.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:


DONALD J. LAIRD
Capt AGC
Adjutant

Tel: Seventh Army 7421

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